

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 8-9 and 17-19 are pending in the application. Claims 8-9 and 17-19 stand rejected. Applicants hereby cancel without prejudice claims 1-20 and add new claims 21-25. New claims 21-25 correspond strictly to the claims the Examiner found allowable in an earlier Office Action dated May 17, 2004, including all the limitations from the now cancelled independent claims the new claims depend upon. Support for the claims newly added by amendment may be found throughout the specification, including the claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Claims 8-9 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Simpson et al. (US 6,143,152). Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, for an alleged obvious type rejection over Manz (US 5,296,114), and additionally, over Mathies et al. (US 6,623,613) in view of Zanzucchi et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, solely to expedite prosecution, and without admission, expressed or implied, that the rejection is properly founded, Applicants herein cancel claims 8-9 and 17-19, without prejudice, obviating the rejection. New claims 21-25 are drawn to subject matter the Examiner found allowable in an earlier Office Action dated May 17, 2004, including all the limitations from the now cancelled independent claims they depend upon. Accordingly, the rejection has been obviated, and Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections should be withdrawn.


Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the cancelled claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications.

Applicants respectfully submit that the now pending claims 21-25 are free of rejection. Applicants thus respectfully submit that the claims are in good and proper form for allowance and respectfully request the same.

If the Examiner believes that any issues remain outstanding, Applicants respectfully request that he call the undersigned for a further telephonic discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

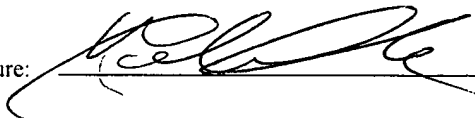
AMERSHAM BIOSCIENCES CORP

By: 
Yonggang Ji
Reg No.: 53,073
Agent for Applicants

Amersham Biosciences Corp
800 Centennial Avenue
P. O. Box 1327
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1327

Tel: (732) 980-2875
Fax: (732) 457-8463

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on February 1, 2005.

Signature: 

Name: Melissa Leck